remuneration and on the same terms and conditions of service as were applicable to them before the amalgamation.

(f) Any suit, appeal or other legal proceedings of whatever nature by or against the transferor bank is pending, the same shall not abate, be discontinued or be in any way prejudicially affected, but shall, subject to the other provisions of the scheme, be prosecuted and enforced by or against the transferee bank.

(g) In case of contravention of any the provisions of any act or of any rule, regulation, direction or order made there under has been committed by, or any proceeding for a criminal offence has been instituted against, a director or secretary, manager, officer or other employee of the transferor bank before the prescribed date, such director, secretary, manager, officer or other employee shall, without prejudice to the application of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, be liable to be proceeded against under such law and punished accordingly as if the transferor bank, being a banking company had not been dissolved.

ADB Aid to Rural Sector

1401. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has decided to double its sanctions for the development of the rural sector for 2005-2007 at Rs. 11,500 crore; and

(b) if so, whether a large chunk of the amount will be used to completion of various projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The recent Country Strategy and Programme Mission 2005-07 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has proposed a tentative provision of Rs. 6960 crore which includes support, *inter alia*, to agribusiness, irrigation and rural roads.

(b) A project on 'Integrated Irrigation Development' of an amount of US $300 million to support Government's Accelerated Irrigation Benefits

Programme (AIBP), has been included in the pipeline for ADB assistance for the year 2006.

Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

1402. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychtropic Substances Act, 1985

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Drug Control Offices of Government are likely to be given greater powers under the proposed amendments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the amending legislation is likely to be brought forward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is no specific proposal of the Government to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 at present.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, (b), (c) and (d) do not arise.

Evasion of tax by private hospitals and nursing homes

1403. SHRI SANJAY RAJARAM RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of private hospitals and nursing homes in the country do not exist on the records of the Income-tax department; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and what steps are taken or are proposed to be taken in this regard by improving I-T administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Enquires carried out by the Income Tax Department indicate that most of the Private Hospitals and Nursing homes having taxable income exist on the records of the Income-tax department.

(b) Efforts are made on a regular basis to identify non-filers of income tax returns and take necessary action for getting the returns filed and taxes paid.